

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preventing infection of a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing an infection such that infection of the subject is prevented.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
5. A method for preventing urinary tract infection of a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing a urinary tract infection such that infection of the subject is prevented.
6. A method for preventing prostatitis in a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing prostatitis such that infection of the subject is prevented.
7. A method for reducing virulence of a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing an infection with the microbe such that virulence of the microbe is reduced.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
10. The method of claim 7, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
11. A method for treating a microbial infection in a subject comprising:
administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a transcription factor to a subject having a microbial infection such that infection of the subject is treated.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
14. The method of claim 11, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
15. A method for treating a urinary tract infection in a subject comprising:
administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a transcription factor to a subject having a urinary tract infection such that infection of the subject is treated.
16. A method for treating prostatitis in a subject comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a transcription factor to a subject having prostatitis such that infection of the subject is treated.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
19. The method of claim 15, further comprising administering an antibiotic.

20. A method for reducing virulence in a microbe comprising: administering a compound that inhibits the expression or activity of a transcription factor to a subject having a microbial infection such that virulence of the microbe is reduced.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
23. The method of claim 20, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
24. A method for evaluating the effectiveness of a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor at inhibiting microbial virulence comprising: infecting a non-human animal with a microbe, wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; administering the compound that modulates the expression or activity of the microbial transcription factor to the non-human animal; and determining the level of infection of the non-human animal, wherein the ability of the compound to reduce the level of infection of the animal indicates that the compound is effective at inhibiting microbial virulence.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
26. The method of claim 24, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
27. The method of claim 24, further comprising administering an antibiotic.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

29. The method of claim 24, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.

30. A method for identifying a compound for treating microbial infection, comprising: inoculating a non-human animal with a microbe, wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; administering a compound which reduces the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to the animal, and determining the effect of the test compound on the ability of the microbe to colonize the animal, such that a compound for treating microbial infection is identified.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

33. The method of claim 30, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.

35. A method for identifying a compound for reducing microbial virulence, comprising: inoculating a non-human animal with a microbe, wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the

microbe colonize the animal; administering a compound which reduces the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to the animal, and determining the effect of the test compound on the ability of the microbe to colonize the animal, such that a compound for reducing microbial virulence is identified.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.

40. A method for identifying transcription factors which promote microbial virulence comprising: creating a microbe in which a transcription factor to be tested is misexpressed; introducing the microbe into a non-human animal; wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; and determining the ability of the microbe to colonize the animal, wherein a reduced ability of the microbe to colonize the animal as compared to a wild-type microbial cell identifies the transcription factor as a transcription factor which promotes microbial virulence.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.
44. The method of claim 40, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.
45. A method for reducing the ability of a microbe to adhere to an abiotic surface comprising: contacting the abiotic surface or the microbe with a compound that modulates the activity of a transcription factor such that the ability of the microbe to adhere to the abiotic surface is reduced.
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
47. The method of claim 45, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
48. The method of claim 45, further comprising contacting the abiotic surface or the microbe with a second agent that is effective at controlling the growth of the microbe.
49. The method of claim 45, wherein the abiotic surface is selected from the group consisting of: stents, catheters, and prosthetic devices.
50. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that modulates the activity or expression of a microbial transcription factor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the compound reduces microbial virulence.
51. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that modulates the activity or expression of a microbial transcription factor and an antibiotic in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.